

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 874 - SB 1255

March 13, 2021

SUMMARY OF BILL: Allows any interested person to file a petition with the court objecting to the child's placement in the custody of the Department of Children's Services (DCS) with a relative of the child. Authorizes the court to order DCS to submit a new permanency plan for the child if the court finds the placement is not in the best interest of the child.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Passage of the proposed legislation will not significantly impact the number of children in the custody of DCS; therefore, any increase in state expenditures to DCS is estimated to be not significant.
- The proposed legislation will not result in a significant increase in caseloads for the state and local courts. Any increase in expenditures will be absorbed within existing state and local resources.
- The proposed legislation authorizes any interested person to file a petition objecting to a child's placement with a relative of the child at any time before or after the child is placed with a relative *by the court*. The court does not currently determine the placement of children in the custody of DCS. Bringing a child into DCS custody requires a judge's approval. In addition, a child's permanency plan is required to be approved by the court. It is assumed that the proposed legislation does not create a new avenue for the placement of children with their relatives and will not authorize courts to determine such placement. Therefore, federal funding received by DCS will not be jeopardized.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bojan Savic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bojan Savic, Interim Executive Director

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